

Bagram vaccinates to protect from smallpox

Story and photos by
Spc. Rick Robinson
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — American troops began receiving smallpox vaccinations last month at the 48th Combat Support Hospital.

Currently, hospital personnel are the only people who have received the vaccine. They are being vaccinated in thirds to avoid jeopardizing combat strength, said Maj. Karen Davies, nurse, officer in charge of the intermediate care ward, 48th CSH, Task Force-44.

The 48th CSH is only tasked to vaccinate U.S. troops. Coalition forces are not included in this mass inoculation.

According to Davies, when a servicemember is inoculated, they receive a small dosage of cowpox.

Once a service member is vaccinated, some of the symptoms they may experience are itching at the site of the vaccine, blisters and flu-like symptoms. About three to 10 percent of the people vaccinated experience flu-like symptoms, according to Davies.

"It's not debilitating, you just feel lousy," said Davies.

Not everyone can receive the vaccine. Servicemembers with skin conditions such as exema and psoriasis can't be inoculated. Also, anyone with an allergic reaction to any of the three antibiotics in the vaccine is exempt.

Once vaccinated, a person can inadvertently spread the cowpox to someone else if they are not careful. The 48th CSH informs those who receive the vaccine on ways to avoid spreading the virus. While some people may be apprehensive about receiving the smallpox vaccine, the risk of becoming



Servicemembers will be immunized under President George W. Bush's directive to inoculate military forces.

ill from it is slim.

"Prior to vaccinating people, we do a pre-screening and an education piece. We give a lecture on what to do and what not to do once you get the vaccination," explained

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Barbershop hires Afghan barbers

Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — On their way to the Post Exchange, troops can now stop in the new Army and Air Force Exchange Service Barbershop to get that hair cut, edge-up or new style they've been waiting on since their arrival.

However, the AAFES Barber Shop on Bagram has decided to do things a little differently. As part of the effort to improve U.S. and Afghan relations, they are giving Afghan barbers a chance to improve their skill in the new shop.

"Once the villagers were selected, they were medically screened and started work on grand-opening day," said Daniel Wise,

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Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

You're live...

Soldiers, airmen and Marines listen as Geraldo Rivera speaks to them during his live show here Sunday morning. Geraldo interviewed servicemembers and allowed some of them to say hello to their families at home. The show aired live on Fox and on Armed Forces Network news with a one-hour delay.

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

Brace for possibility of war

WASHINGTON — As President Bush told the American people “there is little reason to hope [Iraqi leader] Saddam Hussein will disarm” and braced them for the possibility of war, the Iraqi leader put his country on a war footing ahead of a possible invasion by the United States and its allies.

Saddam placed commanders, responsible for defense and internal security, in control of four regions and took direct control of the country’s air force and missiles.

The order from Iraq’s Revolutionary Command Council divides the country into North, Middle Euphrates, Central and South regions.



A supporter of U.S. military action against Iraq, right, argues with an anti-war demonstrator in Washington.

Worldwide demonstrations show divided opinions

WASHINGTON — Around the globe Saturday, people gathered in crowds — some large, some small — to express their opinions of the growing crisis with Iraq.

It proved to be a day of expression through megaphones, microphones and political placards.

There were chants of “U-S-A” in Atlanta, Georgia, and signs of “No War for Oil” written in plain English in Pakistan.

Sentiments at the world rallies were as varied as the locales, with many people saying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is no threat; others insisting the dangers he poses can be dealt with short of warfare.

And in the United States, at least, there were those who gathered to support American troops.

CDC raises alarm over new form of pneumonia

ATLANTA, Ga. — The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended Saturday that Americans consider delaying nonessential travel to countries affected by an outbreak of a rapidly spreading, severe form of pneumonia that does not appear to respond to treatment.

The CDC “is advising persons traveling on nonessential or elective travel to affected areas that they may wish to postpone their trips until further notice,” Dr. Julie Gerberding, the agency’s director, said in a rare Saturday news conference.

Cases of the form of pneumonia, dubbed severe acute respiratory syndrome, have been reported in Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

No cases have been confirmed in the United States.

Al-Qaida suspect arrested

LAHORE, Pakistan — Pakistani authorities arrested a suspected al-Qaida operative Saturday in the eastern city of Lahore, according to a spokesman for the Pakistani Interior Ministry.

Pakistani security forces apprehended an unarmed Yasser al Jazeeri, a Moroccan national, in a public place without incident.

At the same time, authorities arrested a Pakistani man, Noorani said. He did not provide any details on the second man.

Noorani characterized al Jazeeri as an operative of some importance that Pakistan had been tracking.

New man holding China’s purse

BEIJING, China — The Chinese Communist Party’s third-ranking member has been appointed its next premier, assuming control of a huge, rapidly-evolving economy.

Sunday’s vote will see Wen Jiabao, 60, replace Zhu Rongji, who will retire.

Wen will assume control of an economy that has recorded staggering growth, but one wracked with myriad problems brought on by decades of reform.

Passenger finds ‘chilling’ note from bag handler

SEATTLE, Wash. — An airline passenger who had two “No War with Iraq” signs in his suitcase says the federal security agent who opened his luggage inserted a note criticizing his “anti-American attitude.”

“I found it chilling and a little Orwellian to have received this message,” said Seth Goldberg, 41, of Cranbury, New Jersey.

Federal Transportation Security Administration officials are investigating.

Goldberg says that after a March 2 flight from Seattle to San Diego, California, he opened his bag and found a card notifying him that TSA had opened and searched it.

A handwritten note on the card said: “Don’t appreciate your anti-American attitude!”

He said it would have been hard for anyone else to have placed the note because when he claimed the bag in San Diego the zipper pulls were sealed with nylon straps that indicated a TSA inspection.

Two young boys drown in neighbor’s septic tank

WARNER ROBINS, Ga. — Authorities said Saturday they were investigating the deaths of two young boys who drowned in a neighbor’s septic tank.

The boys’ bodies were found submerged Friday in a partially uncovered tank filled with 4 feet to 5 feet of water.

Houston County Sheriff’s Sgt. Bill Kast said it appeared that Tremaine James, 4, and Tyrin James, 3, had wandered into the neighbor’s yard while their mother was asleep. Police began searching for the boys after the mother awoke and reported them missing.

The septic tank the bodies were found in had been in disrepair for about two weeks after a towing company pulling a car out of the yard broke the concrete top of the tank, officials said.

The tank had been pumped out, but water had accumulated and it rained heavily the night before the boys drowned, authorities said.

Shadow Inn makes soldiers feel at home

By Pfc. Stacy Persaved
118th Military Police Company

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — For the past three months the Shadow Inn Dining Facility has been making soldiers feel right at home, providing them with two hot meals a day.

The team consists of soldiers from the 118th Military Police Company (Airborne), Marine Corps, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade and the 812th Infantry Battalion from the Romanian army.

Under the management of Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Flores, dining facility manager, and Staff



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

A Romanian cook dishes out salad to soldiers during the evening meal.

Sgt. Derrick Crawford, assistant dining facility manager, the two shifts work to ensure quality food is prepared in a timely man-

ner. The cooks of the Shadow Inn Dining Facility take a lot of pride in the meals that are prepared for the 1,000 or more sol-

diers that rely on them. While the night sky is still dark the cooks roll out of their warm beds ready to start the workday that begins at midnight.

The soldiers prepare, cook and serve the hot meals using the initial deployment kitchen that is designed to feed, at a minimum, 500 soldiers, though the dining facility has fed up to 1,200 soldiers.

"The job speaks for itself. When you work for food services, the cooks don't get the recognition they deserve," said Crawford. "Coming to a combat zone, there are stresses that

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services business manager, AAFES.

Unlike in the U.S., there is no certification here to determine whether or not someone truly has experience as a barber.

"Many of our Afghan employees have very little education so they have no official documents proving they are barbers," said Wise. "However, myself and the barbershop management team can tell if someone has experience just by the way they hold a pair of scissors and interact with costumers."

Another challenge the AAFES barber-shop management had to face, was introducing state-of-the-art technology to the Afghans, as opposed to their older equipment.

"If you go to a barber shop in Kabul, you will see that they still use regular garden chairs and old-fashioned shears such as you would use on livestock," said Wise. "Our electronic clippers and the swivel chairs you can pump up and down were new to them — it took some getting used to."

Another challenge the barbershop has in a deployed environment is going about business as usual without the option of running water.

"We use hand sanitizers and whatever else we can to make sure we keep things as clean and sterile as possible," said Wise.

"Because there is no running water we can't offer a shampoo job to the females. We can only cut and style their hair."

Knowing that troops would be a little apprehensive about letting the Afghans cut their hair, the barber shop management developed a plan to help break the ice.

"March 11 was the barber shop's grand opening," said Wise. "We offered free hair cuts to everyone to give the Afghans a chance to get used to the troops, and the troops a chance to get a hair cut free of charge. Fortunately, everyone interacted well and everything went smoothly."

Since the Afghan barbers are doing well in the barber shop so far, Wise has developed a plan that will help them to improve their skills and customer relations.

"In our profession, cleanliness is a priority because of our close interaction with our customers," said Wise. "I am planning on speaking to the medical division here about arranging some classes for the barbers on sanitation and hygiene."

"After that, I am going to see what I can do about having barber certification classes instituted," Wise added.

The barber shop is open seven days a week from 0530Z to 1430Z. The starting price for a basic hair cut is \$5.25.

According to Wise, service is a part of

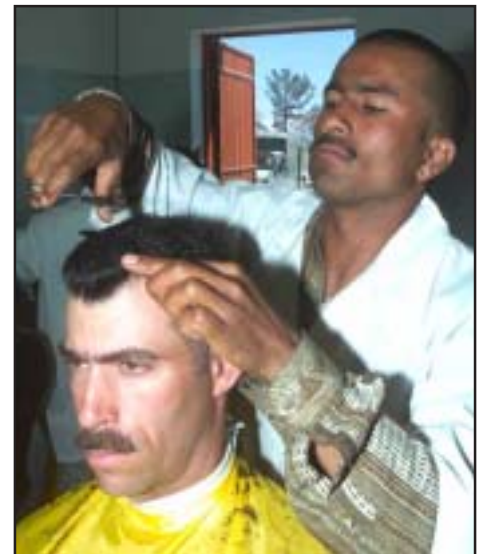


Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Abdul Hafiz, Army and Air Force Exchange Service barber, puts the finishing touches on a soldier's new cut. Hafiz started working at the AAFES Barber Shop when it opened Tuesday, but has had prior barber experience in Bagram village.

AAFES' name, because service is what they live by.

"We are here to serve our armed forces in whatever way their command sees fit," said Wise. "Whether it be an Afghan barber looking for work, or a soldier looking for a hair cut, our job is to serve everyone the best way we can."



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Pvt. Felicia Flake, food services specialist, spices up barbecued ribs for the evening meal at the Shadow Inn Dining Facility.

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come along with that; the soldiers here are doing very well.”

To ensure every soldier receives the same nutritional hot meal, the food services specialists manage their time by means of progressive cooking. At 0300Z, soldier’s pile into the dining facility to enjoy the taste of oven-baked pork sausage, crisp bacon, golden eggs and creamy hominy grits along with French toast.

The dining facility also offers a variety of fresh and canned fruits, breakfast cereals and bars, breads and beverages to complement the hot meal.

At 0500Z, the dining hall closes and the shift clean to prepare the preparation for the oncoming shift. Food services specialists maintain the highest standards of personal hygiene, sanitation, food preparation and pest control as they keep a germ-free work environment.

Before and after each meal all utensils, supplies and equipment are washed, rinsed and sanitized with hot water and sanitizing solution.

Shift leaders and first cooks work hand-in-hand to complete their daily missions. By working as a team the days go by a lot easier even if the meal is harder than the day before.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: “For a Few Dollars More.” Two bounty hunters with completely different intentions team up to track down a Western outlaw.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Wedding Singer.”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
Bagram:	Mostly cloudy H: 63F L: 39F	Mostly cloudy H: 64F L: 37F
Kandahar:	Mostly cloudy H: 70F L: 37F	Mostly cloudy H: 72F L: 43F
Kabul:	Haze H: 63F L: 36F	Haze H: 66F L: 36F
Uzbekistan:	Partly cloudy H: 66F L: 39F	Partly cloudy H: 74F L: 40F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

Soccer/European football (Compiled from ESPN.com)

Man United now within two of lead

LONDON — Manchester United and Newcastle took advantage of a surprise defeat for Arsenal to slash the champions' lead at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Arsenal stayed on 63 points after losing 2-0 at Blackburn Rovers, allowing second-placed Manchester United to cut its advantage to two points thanks to a 1-0 win at Aston Villa.

With eight games to go, Newcastle (58) is only five points behind Arsenal following its 2-0 victory at Charlton Athletic.

Well-struck goals in each half by Blackburn midfielders Damien Duff and Tugay condemned Arsenal to its first defeat in 13 league games, dating back to Dec. 7. Blackburn completed a rare double, having won 2-1 at Highbury in October.

David Beckham scored United's winner at Villa in an early kick-off, while Alan Shearer, with a penalty, and Nolberto Solano secured Newcastle the points in a bruising game at The Valley.

Mick McCarthy suffered a damaging home defeat — 2-0 by Bolton Wanderers — in his first game as manager of bottom club Sunderland, which is now 10 points from safety and seemingly doomed.

Blackburn deserved its second league success of the season over Arsenal with a determined performance.

Helguera's late goal keeps Real in first

MADRID — Real Madrid needed a last-minute goal from center back Ivan Helguera to snatch a 1-0 win away to Villarreal on Saturday and maintain their one-point lead at the top of the league table.

Villarreal had the better chances in an untidy game but Real kept pressing forward and was rewarded at the last gasp as Helguera stabbed in a right-wing cross from Oscar Minambres.

Victory briefly gave Real a four-point lead at the top but Real Sociedad and Deportivo Coruna both responded to the challenge to leave the situation unchanged at the top.

Real Sociedad came from behind to win 2-1 at Racing Santander with goals from Nihat Kahveci and Valery Karpin, while Deportivo had a more straightforward 2-0 success at home to Rayo Vallecano, Roy Makaay and Noureddine Naybet getting the goals.

After 26 games, Real Madrid leads the standings with 54 points, followed by Real Sociedad on 53 and Deportivo Coruna on 51.



David Beckham scored Man United's lone goal.

AC Milan held scoreless

MILAN — Two goals from Pavel Nedved, the second an outstanding solo strike, gave Juventus a 3-0 win over Modena on Saturday and sent Marcello Lippi's side six points clear at the top of Serie A.

Inter Milan can reduce the gap if it beats Como at home on Sunday but third-place AC Milan now trails the leader by eight points after it was held to a 0-0 draw at Reggina — its third successive draw.

Czech midfielder Nedved proved to be decisive once again for Juventus but the result flattered the Italian champions who struggled for long periods and had the woodwork and the referee to thank for not falling behind to the visitors.

Modena's Senegalese international striker Diomansy Kamara should have done better when he found himself clear on goal

in the 14th minute but fired his shot against the outside of the post.

Then seven minutes into the second half Modena had a goal ruled out for offside when Fabio Vignaroli tapped the ball home after Omar Milanetto's shot had crashed out off the crossbar.

Television replays showed Vignaroli had been in onside when Milanetto fired his shot.

Modena's disappointment was compounded two minutes later when Nedved put Juve ahead with a neat finish after latching on to a header from Marcelo Zalayeta.

Ten minutes from the end Modena came close to an equalizer, Juve keeper Gianluigi Buffon pulling off an outstanding save to keep out a close range shot from substitute Andrea Fabbri.

Kaiserslautern out of relegation zone

BERLIN — Runaway Bundesliga leader Bayern Munich stayed comfortably on course for another league crown with an impressive 4-1 victory at modest VfL Bochum on Saturday.

Bayern built its victory before the break with headed goals from Peru striker Claudio Pizarro and Brazilian forward Elber and stayed on top after the interval with Croatia midfielder Niko Kovac and France defender Willy Sagnol doubling its advantage.

The Munich club, which has not lost in Bochum for 18 years, did not seem to suffer too much from the absence of injured playmaker Michael Ballack, outplaying its host to close in on an 18th German title.

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Bochum, which dropped two spots down to 12th in the 18-strong table, reduced the arrears in stoppage time through striker Thomas Christiansen.

"Our goal was to keep them under pressure and we did that well," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who hinted his men could have won by a higher margin.

"Once we were 3-0 up the game was decided and that allowed us to slow down a little and spare some energy," he added.

Bayern, reduced to chasing domestic silverware since bowing out of Europe, remained 13 points clear of second-place Borussia Dortmund.

Defending champion Dortmund beat Hanover 96 2-0 courtesy of a first-half goal from Germany midfielder Torsten Frings and one from substitute Leandro after the interval.

The title race looks almost decided but the battle against relegation remains exciting.

Wagner's late goal salvages tie

OLHAO, Portugal — Aly Wagner's goal off a corner kick with five minutes left Friday lifted the United States into a 1-1 tie with Canada in the Algarve Cup.

Canada took the lead in the seventh minute when defender Randee Hermus scored.

"I didn't give up after the early setback. ... We created enough chances to win," U.S. coach April Heinrichs said.

Star forward Mia Hamm came close to scoring for the United States but wasn't able to put the ball in the net.

"I had several good chances and I should have put one of them away," said Hamm, who missed last year's Algarve Cup with a left

knee injury.

"The Canadians are a very physical team, great battlers. It's difficult not to be intimidated by them.

"My knee problem was not a factor, I played 90 minutes and felt very good."

This was the first game between the countries since the United States beat Canada 2-1 in overtime on Hamm's goal in the final of the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup in November.

The U.S. record against Canada is 24-4-2.

Striker docked two weeks' pay

LIVERPOOL — Liverpool striker El Hadji Diouf has been fined two weeks' wages over the spitting incident that marred the UEFA Cup tie with Celtic, manager Gerard Houllier said on Friday.

The Senegalese could also face a police charge and UEFA action after TV replays clearly showed the player spitting in the direction of home supporters following a touchline clash towards the end of Thursday's Parkhead clash.

But Houllier played down the incident and insisted Diouf would start Sunday's premier league game at Tottenham.

"El Hadji is young, he is learning and he makes mistakes. This was a mistake and he realises he must not do that anymore," Houllier told reporters.

"There is not the same importance placed on spitting in various other countries and what he did was wrong, but not as bad as what Eric Cantona did (attacking a fan in 1995).

"It doesn't mean you accept that, but it does mean that you can forgive and we will help and support him.

"You forgive because he is your child. People have said a lot of things since the incident, but to me, El Hadji Diouf is a Liverpool player, so he is like one of my children."

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Davies. "We also give them a vaccination care kit. We don't just vaccinate people and send them on their way."

The vaccination care kit includes bandages, sponges, surgical tape and smallpox-bandage disposal bags.

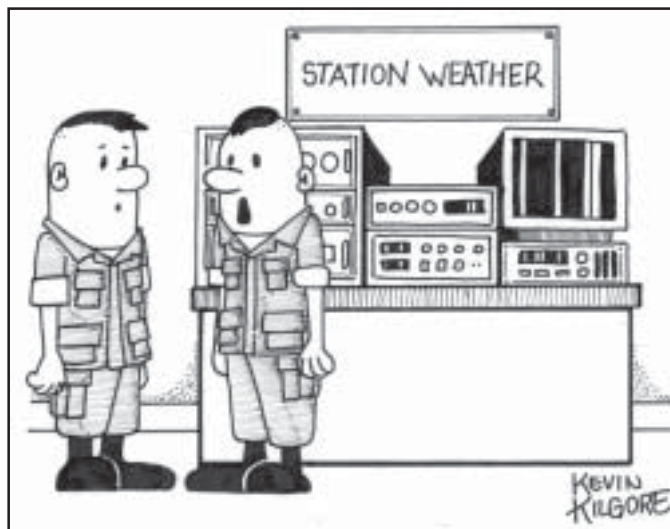
In addition to the education provided about the vaccine, Davies says that common sense is the best way to prevent the virus from spreading.

Inoculated servicemembers should keep the vaccination site covered and dispose of the bandage with the materials provided by the hospital. They should also take extra time to wash their hands before and after using the latrine, before eating and anytime they touch the site. "As long as people follow the simple rules, they should be fine," Davies added.



The vaccination care kit includes sponges, band-aids, an information pamphlet, surgical tape and smallpox disposal bags.

"Most of the stuff is just for show. We usually just watch AFN."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support